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Cambodia: The government is moving quickly to consolidate its position.

The National Assembly granted what it termed "full power" to Prime Minister Lon Nol on 19 March. The assembly also declared a national emergency and suspended a number of constitutional articles for six months, giving the government broad powers of arrest and prohibiting public assemblies. One of the few remaining pro-Sihanouk ministers in the cabinet has resigned.

The government has launched a public campaign, spearheaded by acting chief of state Cheng Heng, to denigrate Sihanouk. The prince has been charged with supplying arms to Cambodia's enemies and his entourage has been criticized for corruption. The armed forces have been notified that Sihanouk has been dismissed as commander in chief for betraying the constitution and the nation. The army was ordered to crush any possible subsequent action by Sihanouk to resume power.

Phnom Penh and the countryside are quiet, but demonstrations against Vietnamese and Chinese communities have been reported in some provincial towns. Provincial officials are climbing on the bandwagon and sending in pledges of loyalty to the government. No significant military actions have been reported between Cambodian and Vietnamese Communist units along the eastern border, nor is there any evidence of major withdrawals of Communist units.

Sihanouk, who remains in Peking where he is being accorded full diplomatic honors as a chief of state, still has made no comment on his ouster. Among the Communist countries, only the USSR and North Vietnam have mentioned the shift of power to Lon Nol. Only the Soviet press still refers to Sihanouk as chief of state. Other Communist countries undoubtedly are waiting for Sihanouk to make a public statement and will tailor their reactions accordingly.

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Laos: The military situation in the Long Tieng area has stabilized for the moment.

The airlift of three guerrilla battalions from south Laos is under way and advance elements have already taken up defensive positions midway between Sam Thong and Long Tieng. In addition, newly arrived long-range artillery pieces have been deployed in positions to destroy enemy rocket launching sites in the hills immediately north of the base. These measures have boosted Meo morale and General Vang Pao is now resolved to put up a "strong defense" of his guerrilla headquarters.

The deteriorating military situation and Prime Minister Souvanna's apparent willingness to pursue the Communists' peace proposal of 6 March are contributing to political unrest in south Laos.

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The disgruntled elements are apparently maneuvering for the return of Phoumi Nosavan, who has been in Thai exile since an abortive coup in 1965. Discredited in most areas of the country, Phoumi's support appears to be limited to these southern politicians. Phoumi is particularly anathema to the Vientiane-based Sananikone clan and the rightist military leaders in the capital.

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USSR - Communist China: Pravda has published the most authoritative indictment of China since the Peking talks began.

The article, which appeared on 19 March, was signed by I. Alexandrov--a rarely used pseudonym that was last seen in the Soviet press on the eve of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. Alexandrov builds on the last indictment of China, a TASS statement of 14 March, by directly accusing Peking of using the "war preparations" campaign in China to influence the course of the talks. The author warns that no one should attempt to speak to the USSR in the "language of arms." At the same time, however, the article denies the "inevitability" of an armed Soviet attack on China and attributes such "concoctions" to Westerners who are out to prevent the normalization of Sino-Soviet relations.

In an otherwise routine statement on the internal situation in China, Alexandrov also implies that there are political forces in China that desire a more conciliatory line toward Moscow. Continued Soviet sensitivity to the triangular aspects of the US-China-USSR relationship is evident in Alexandrov's attacks on the US for allegedly trying to disrupt the talks and on China for responding to these overtures.

The Alexandrov article is probably designed among other things to put the Chinese on notice that the limits of Moscow's patience have almost been reached. As such, its message is that Peking must be more forthcoming or face a Soviet move either to downgrade or break off the negotiations. Beyond that, the article also serves to inform Moscow's allies, as well as its adversaries, that Peking, not the USSR, stands to lose more should the situation deteriorate further.

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Communist China: China's current round of mass trials appears to have taken on some aspects of a terror campaign.

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[redacted] a bloody crackdown by authorities on "criminal" elements among the population. Although most of those convicted are being sentenced to labor reform, an increasing number are being summarily executed. At least 230 persons reportedly have been publicly executed in south China in recent weeks. In one trial in Canton, 20 out of 30 accused minor officials were executed. [redacted]

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[redacted] the trials and executions are part of a nationwide anti-corruption campaign.

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The campaign may also have some political overtones. [redacted] former Red Guards in some areas are being victimized under cover of the current campaign.

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[redacted]

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East Germany - West Germany: Premier Stoph and Chancellor Brandt used yesterday's meeting simply to set forth their previously stated positions, and they agreed to meet again.

As anticipated, Stoph took a hard-line opening position, suggesting that he and Brandt discuss in detail the points set forth in the draft treaty sent to Bonn last December by Ulbricht. He emphasized that Bonn must recognize East Germany as a sovereign state "under international law." He specifically stated at one point that normal relations meant diplomatic relations.

Stoph also called upon Bonn to recognize all European borders, and to forgo any attempts to change them in the future. He objected to Brandt's idea that there could be some type of special relationship between the two Germanies by saying that there could not be "intra-German relations." For the first time, Stoph raised the question of "reparations" to be paid by Bonn for the loss of manpower suffered by East Germany in the postwar period.

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In the exchange of views, according to news reports, Brandt turned aside the question of outright recognition. Instead, he offered a general treaty, internationally valid, regulating relations between East and West Germany and an agreement on the renunciation of force. He suggested that efforts be made to facilitate contacts between the two peoples and that a series of improvements be accomplished in such areas as communications and transportation. He restated the principle of four-power responsibility for Berlin and proposed that both East and West Germany support four-power efforts for an improvement

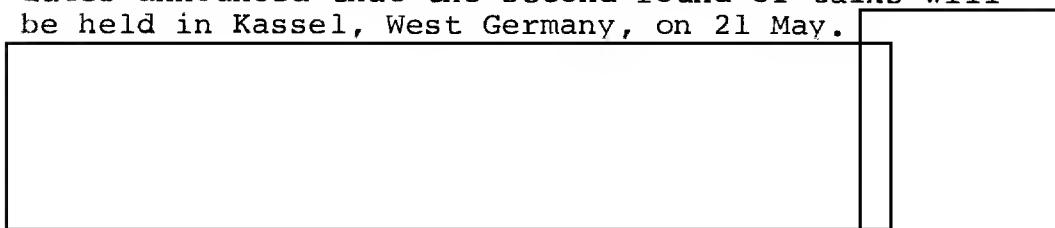
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of the Berlin situation. Stoph, for his part, avoided discussing the Berlin issue, but did insist that East Germany is not subject to four-power responsibility.

Brandt and Stoph held a second meeting during the evening, apparently without advisers. It was later announced that the second round of talks will be held in Kassel, West Germany, on 21 May.

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Israel - Arab States: Israel continues to conduct air strikes along the Egyptian cease-fire lines, but for nearly a month has not struck close to Cairo.

The Israelis have made almost daily strikes against Egyptian emplacements on the west bank of the Suez Canal, at targets further inland, and in the Nile Delta area. Their last attack close to Cairo was the one on 12 February in which a civilian factory was hit by mistake. The closest raid thereafter was an attack on an SA-2 site 20 miles west of the Egyptian capital on 26 February.

The Israeli reasons for steering clear of Cairo are not entirely clear; weather conditions have occasionally been poor, and Israel may also want to conserve aircraft. Repercussions from the bombing error could be a factor, and the Israelis may be marking time pending a US decision on further aircraft sales.

The Israelis are not using their aircraft on the other cease-fire lines. In response to increased Syrian harassment in the Golan Heights area, the Israelis have chosen raids by helicopter-borne commandos rather than fighter aircraft attacks. Although they have used aircraft before, they specifically denied Syrian charges of their use in these forays.

In Jordan, the Israelis have not conducted air strikes since mid-February, using cross-border ground raids and artillery to respond to fedayeen attacks. The same situation obtains on the Lebanese border; on 18 March, the Israelis carried out their second recent "warning" raid into southern Lebanon, and they have responded with artillery fire to fedayeen shellings.

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Greece-Cyprus: Athens is sending a high-ranking army officer to Cyprus to assist in the investigation of the assassination of former interior minister Georkatzis and the attempt on President Makarios' life.

This officer will also deal with the allegation that mainland Greeks are involved in the recent violence on Cyprus. Following the arrival of the Greek officer on Cyprus, Makarios issued a statement denying mainland complicity in the violence. A Turkish Cypriot newspaper has claimed that Makarios has been put under house arrest by Greek officers, but this is still unconfirmed.

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[redacted]
[redacted] Prime Minister Papadopoulos, [redacted]
[redacted] publicly condemned the recent troubles on Cyprus and urged that the guilty parties be apprehended and severely punished.

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Meanwhile, the government has established a "hotline" to Ankara through the Turkish Embassy in Athens. The regime plans to keep the Turkish Government informed of developments to avoid any possible overreaction on the part of the Turks. Yesterday the Turkish Government publicly stated its serious concern about the situation, and affirmed that it would oppose any move toward enosis "with all its forces and strength."

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*Libya: A move may be under way within Libya's ruling Revolutionary Command Council against Chairman Qaddafi. The Grand Mufti of Libya--appointed by Qaddafi and one of his closest advisers--is reportedly under house arrest. He is also the most important religious leader in Libya. Qaddafi has been opposed within the council by those who think he is selling out to Egypt and are critical of his domestic policies. Qaddafi might be replaced as chairman or forced by his opponents within the council to modify his policies to prevent the growing dissatisfaction from developing into a serious attempt to oust the regime.

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India: "President's rule"--direct control by the central government in New Delhi--was imposed on West Bengal yesterday following the failure of the militant Communist Party/Marxist, the largest party in the last government, to come up with a workable solution. Army units have been moved into the state to guard against more outbreaks of violence. Prime Minister Gandhi, apparently in hopes of postponing new elections and the return of the Marxists with a larger plurality than in the present state legislature, has suspended that body temporarily. Meanwhile, the government is endangered in Kerala State where Marxist efforts to bring down a coalition government led by the more moderate, pro-Soviet Communist Party appear to be meeting with success.

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*Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State.

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Czechoslovakia: The Husak leadership has weathered a day of potential unrest by using elaborate security measures. Prior to yesterday's Czechoslovak-Soviet world championship hockey match in Stockholm, won by the USSR, police arrested several thousand dissidents considered most likely to organize and participate in public demonstrations. In Prague, regular police security units were reinforced with soldiers. Last year, two Czechoslovak victories over the Russians in this tournament led to demonstrations that precipitated a crisis leading to the ouster of party leader Alexander Dubcek. These precautions probably will remain in effect until after the two countries play a second match on 27 March.

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Italy: President Saragat has called caretaker Premier Mariano Rumor to come for consultation today, following former premier Fanfani's decision yesterday to abandon his attempt to form a government. Saragat may ask Rumor to make another attempt at forming a coalition government. Rumor would stand a better chance of succeeding now than he did in early March because he probably would not insist on the precondition set by Fanfani that all four center-left party secretaries participate in the government.

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Dominican Republic: President Balaguer has come under strong public criticism as a result of the murder of four persons by the police. The commander of the police in the city of Barahona has admitted that four persons arrested on suspicion of terrorism were murdered there earlier this week. Opposition leaders have attempted to link the incident to other alleged government-condoned violence. The leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), the major opposition group, has charged that some of the victims were PRD members. The incident comes at a time when Balaguer's opponents are charging that he is encouraging a state of terrorism to make it impossible to hold open elections in May.

(continued)

Guatemala: Colonel Carlos Arana, who won a plurality of the popular vote on 1 March but not the required majority, is expected to be confirmed as president-elect by the incumbent congress within a day or two. The juridical controversy over whether the outgoing or newly elected congress should select the next president has been decided in favor of the former. Although there is still some discontent in the defeated government party, which controls the standing congress, a majority is expected to concede Arana's victory. The presidential succession is scheduled for 1 July.

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Congo (Brazzaville): A reaction to the recently increased authority of leftist extremists may be forming. The party central committee considered coup rumors during an all-day session on 16 March and issued an urgent appeal for support of the "revolution." Although the current uneasiness could portend a showdown between the radicals and President Ngouabi, they still have a common interest in preventing the overthrow of their coalition government.

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International Aviation: The council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has set 16 June for a special session to consider measures to deal with incidents of sabotage and aerial hijacking. The decision was taken a few hours after the international pilots' federation called for a ban on flights to and from countries that do not crack down on air piracy. The pilots did not threaten a worldwide strike, but whether, in the face of the current upsurge of incidents, they will be content to await the results of the June meeting is uncertain. A principal topic in June is expected to be a draft convention developed within ICAO that would make aerial hijacking a punishable offense.

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